

REMARKS

The Examiner states that claims 1-26 are pending, claims 14-26 are withdrawn and that claims 1-12 are rejected. The Examiner objects to claim 13 as being allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

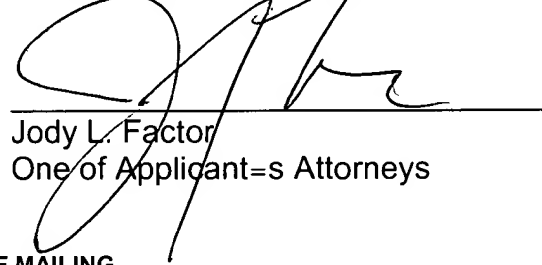
Applicant amends the claims consistent the Examiner's suggestions by adding the limitations of claims 12 and 13 (13 depends from 12) into independent claim 1. Applicant submits that amended claim 1 is now allowable. In so much that claims 2-11 are dependent on claim 1 or on a claim that depends on claim 1 it is submitted that claims 2-11 should likewise be deemed allowable.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claims 1-11 (as amended) should now be deemed in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and passage to allowance is respectfully requested.

Should anything further be required please call the undersigned at (312) 226-1818.

Respectfully submitted,

FACTOR & PARTNERS, LLC



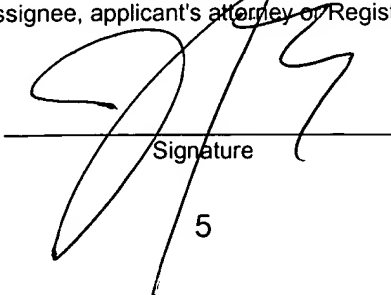
Jody L. Factor
One of Applicant's Attorneys

Dated: January 8, 2004

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Patent Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 8, 2004.

Jody L. Factor
Name of Applicant, assignee, applicant's attorney or Registered Representative



Signature

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